

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-9 are currently pending in this application. By way of this amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to further distinguish the present invention over the cited prior art, claim 3 has been cancelled, without prejudice, and claims 4-9 have been added to more distinctly claim subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. In the drawings, Figure 2B has been amended to correct a typographical error. Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced by way of this amendment.

The title of the invention was objected to as being non-descriptive. By way of this amendment, the title has been replaced and is now believed to be in accordance with the Examiner's remarks. Withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,920,420 (Sano et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sano in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,920,420 (Shibata et al.). Since claim 3 has been cancelled, this rejection is now moot.

The Examiner applied Sano, stating:

Sano discloses a camera comprising: an image pickup optical system (Fig. 7 items 2, 3 and 4) for forming an optical image to an electric signal; a photoelectric converting device (Fig. 7 : 7) for converting the optical image to an electric signal; an optical device (Fig. 7 : 6) disposed between the image

pickup optical system and the photoelectric device; and vibration applying means (stepping motor in Fig. 7 : 17a) for vibrating the optical device... .

Referring to Figure 7 of Sano, reference numerals 6a and 6b make up the "master lens" group (eyepiece lens) and are part of the image pickup optical system. *See* Sano at col. 9, lns. 28-30. Sano discloses that the "lens group 6b is a master lens post group ... which is moved in its optical axis direction and allows the optical image to be focused onto the photo sensing surface of the image pickup device 7." Col. 9, lns. 30-35. Sano further discloses that a stepping motor (17a) is used to vibrate and move the master lens group (6b) for focusing the camera. *See* col. 11 lns. 33-57; col. 12, lns. 13-51.

Independent claims 1 and 9 of the present invention are distinguishable from Sano because the optical device (glass plate 17) of the present invention is a separate element from the image pickup optical system. Referring to Fig. 1 of the present invention, the optical device (17) is positioned to seal a portion of the CCD holder (151) containing filters (153, 154, 155) and the photoelectric converting device (15); thereby preventing dust from invading this space from the outside. *See* Specification at pg. 8.

Sano does not suggest or disclose an optical device separate from the image pickup optical system and disposed between the image pickup optical system and the photoelectric converting device to serve as a seal preventing dust from invading this space. In addition, Sano does not disclose vibrating an optical device in a manner to remove dust. Rather, the master lens group (6b) of Sano is vibrated to finely focus the camera. There is no teaching or suggestion of vibrating the photoelectric converting device and since there is no teaching

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of an optical device independently of the image pickup optical system, there is clearly no teaching of vibrating an optical device.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 9 should be allowable over the cited prior art because Sano does not anticipate independent claims 1 and 9. In addition, because Shibata, which is likewise limited to teaching vibration of an optical lens system, does not disclose the aforementioned shortcomings of Sano, the combination of Sano and Shibata does not render claims 1 and 9 obvious. Based on the foregoing, claims 2 and 4-8, which depend from claim 1, are also allowable over the cited prior art.

Conclusion

Based on the arguments presented above, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-2 and 4-9 is respectfully requested.

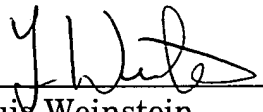
If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1, 2, and 4-9, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Sumio Kawai

By 
Louis Weinstein
Registration No. 20,477

Volpe and Koenig, P.C.
United Plaza, Suite 1600
30 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-6400

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Enclosure

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2B and replaces the original sheet, which includes Figs. 1, 2A and 2B. In Fig. 2B, the text corresponding with element 17a has been changed to correct a typographical error in the spelling of the word "formation."